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EDITORIAL

Summer has almost come and gone without my noticing it. It has been an odd summer in terms of weather but judging from my discussions with other people, the birding has been excellent this year. The thing I have noticed while putting this edition of *Lanioturdus* together is the really good numbers of rare birds that were seen during these last few months. These records raise the question of what brings these spurts of rarities about.

Is it the unusual rainfall and general climatic patterns experienced over much of the subcontinent? Is just that we are getting more reports of rarities because there are a lot more birders out there at the moment? Is it a consequence of the "Patagonia effect" described by Peter Kaestner in a previous edition of *Lanioturdus*. Whatever the situation is, we have had two new birds added to the Namibian list in the last six months. A presumed Pied Flycatcher at the Windhoek Sewerage Works (October 1998) and a Red-throated Pipit in Swakopmund (March 1999). These records may represent interesting biological indicators of broader environmental processes influencing the sub-continent. These records are interesting in themselves but seen against a background of a large number of other rare birds in the same period we have to admit the possibility of large scale climatic (or other) factors influencing their occurrence in Namibia.

So what happens to these records? Currently nothing much!! All records reported to me are put into the Short Notes section and I encourage people to write up their sightings. My feeling is that a tremendous amount of

NEWS FROM THE NAMIBIA SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIBRARY

Very few of our members seem to be aware that the Namibia Scientific Society has a fairly substantial library (reference only) which is available for use by all members.

The following publications are obtained on a regular exchange basis. Members are welcome to make use of these magazines during the opening times of the library, being 8:00 to 13:00 (weekdays only). Should any members be unable to come during the morning, the magazines can be made available by special request from 14:00 to 17:00. Please note, our library is a reference library, thus no magazines may be taken home. However, photocopy facilities are available.

The following list of publications received by the library will be updated in future editions of *Lanioturdus*.

Publication	Last issue available
Africa Environment & Wildlife	Vol. 6/3, Jul. 1998
African Primates (Zoology)	Vol. 2, No. 2, Aug. 1998
Animal Research and Development (Zoology)	Oct. 1998
Annalen vom Naturhistorischen Museum Wien	Vol. 99B, Jun. 1998
Annals SA Museum	Vol. 105/5, Aug. 1998
Beaufortia (Zoology)	Vol. 48 (1-5), Nov. '98
Bild der Wissenschaft	No. 8, Aug. 1998
Boissiera (Botany - French)	
Bulletin of Natural History Museum	Vol. 28/1, Jul. 1998
Bulletin Zoologisch Museum	Vol. 16, No. 5, Nov. '98
Contributions to Zoology	Vol. 67, No. 3, Nov. '98
Die Vogelwelt	Oct. 1998
Entomologica Fennica (Entomology)	Vol. 9 No. 2, Nov. 1998
Entomologische Abhandlungen	Bd. 58/Heft 1, Aug. 1998
Fieldiana (Zoology)	Aug. 1998
Gefiederte Welt (Ornithologie)	Sep. 1998
Hornbill (Ornithology)	No. 52, Nov. 1998

Koedoe Journal (National Parks SA)	Vol. 41/1, Jun. 1998
Loro Parque (Ornithology)	Sep. 1998
Natural History	No. 6/98
Nature Australia	Autumn 98
Naturforschende Gesellschaft	Oct. 1998
Naturschutz	Oct. 1998
Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau	No. 6, Jun. 1998
Offenbacher Verein für Naturkunde	3 Hefte / 2 Hefte
Ornis Fennica (Ornithology, Finland)	Vol. 75/1, Nov. 1998
Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften	Aug. 1998
Ostrich (Ornithology)	Aug. 1998
Proceedings of the California Academy	Oct. 1998
Records of Australian Museum	Supp. 24, Aug. 1998
SA Waterbulletin	Aug. 1998
Seevögel (Verein Jordsand) (Ornithologie)	Vol. 19/2, Aug. 1998
Senckenbergiana Biologica (Naturwissenschaften)	Band 77, Jul. 1998
Senckenbergiana Lethaea (Naturwissenschaften)	Bd. 77 1/2, Aug. 1998
The Condor (Ornithology)	Vol. 110, No. 3, Oct. '98
Transactions of the Zimbabwe Scientific Society	Nov. 1998
Veld & Flora (Indigeneous Flora)	Sep. 1998
Water SA	Jul. 1998
Zoologische Verhandelingen	Sep. 1998
Zoosystema	Aug. 1998

